Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for managing data in a data storage system, the data storage system including a plurality of physical storage devices, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a plurality of ~~encapsulated~~ modules, ~~wherein each module comprises programming code for implementing features of a storage system utilizing a Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) configuration and each module comprises each of the plurality of modules including~~ at least one child;

b) receiving an input command related to the data by one of the plurality of modules from a source, wherein the source is transparent to the one module;

c) deciding which child of the at least one children to pass the input command; and

d) passing the input command to the decided child for processing the data according to the input command.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the source comprises another module.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the one module is the child of another module.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the source is a client computer.

5. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

e)   determining whether the decided child is another module of the plurality of

modules; and

f)   repeating steps b) – d) if the decided child is determined to be another module.

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6. (original): The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

g)   if the decided child is determined in step e) to be a physical storage device,

accessing the data stored in the physical storage device according to the input command.

7. (Currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the accessing step g) further

~~comprising~~comprises:

g1)   building commands in the physical storage device to process the input

command; and

g2)   executing the commands in the physical storage device.

8. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the physical storage device is a disk drive.

9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the built commands are small computer system

interface (SCSI) commands.

10. (original): The method of claim 7, further including the step of:

h)   returning a status message from the decided child module to the parent module;

and

i)   repeating step h) until the parent module is an operating system of a host.

11. (Currently amended): A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for managing data in a data storage system, the data storage system including a plurality of disk drives, the programming instructions for:

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a) providing a plurality of ~~encapsulated~~ modules, ~~wherein each module comprises programming code for implementing features of a storage system utilizing a Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) configuration and each module comprises each of the plurality of modules including~~ at least one child;

b) one of the plurality of modules receiving an input command from a source, wherein the source is transparent to the one module;

c) deciding which child of the at least one children to pass the input command; and

d) passing the input command to the decided child for processing.

12. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the source comprises another module.

13. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the one module is the child of another module.

14. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the source is a client computer.

15. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the instructions for:

e) determining whether the decided child is another module of the plurality of

modules; and

f) repeating steps b) – d) if the decided child is determined to be another module.

16. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 15 further comprising the instruction for:

g) if the decided child is determined in step e) to be a disk drive,

accessing the data stored in the disk drive according to the input command.

17. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the accessing instruction g)

further comprising:

g1) building commands in the disk drive to process the input command; and

g2) executing the commands in the disk drive.

18. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the built commands are

small computer system interface (SCSI) commands.

19. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 17, further including the instructions for:

h) returning a status message from the decided child module to the parent module;

and

i) repeating step h) until the parent module is an operating system of a host.

20. (Currently amended): A system for managing data in a data storage system, the data storage

system including a plurality of physical storage devices, the system comprising:

a host computer for allowing a user to enter an input command related to data in the data

storage system; and

a controller having an input coupled to the host computer and an output coupled to the

plurality of physical storage devices, the controller further comprising:

a plurality of encapsulated modules, wherein each module comprises

programming code for implementing features of a storage system utilizing a Redundant

Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) configuration and each module comprises each of the

plurality of modules including at least one child;

means for one of the plurality of modules receiving the input command from a

source, wherein the source is transparent to the one module;

means for deciding which child of the at least one children of the one module to

pass the input command; and

means for passing the input command to the decided child for processing the data

in accord with the input command.

21. (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the source is another module.

22. (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the one module is the child of another module.

23. (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the source is the host computer.

24. (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the decided child is one physical storage device

of the plurality of physical storage devices.

25. (original): The system of claim 24, further comprising means for accessing the data stored in the one physical storage device.

26. (original): The system of claim 25, wherein the means for accessing the data includes a plurality of control chips coupled to the controller, each control chip coupled to a corresponding physical storage device of the plurality of physical storage devices, wherein each control chip includes means for building commands to access the data in the corresponding physical storage device in accordance with the input command.

27. (original): The system of claim 26, wherein the commands are small computer system interface (SCSI) commands.

28-33 (withdrawn)